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**Special Political and Decolonization Committee**
**Fourth Committee**

**Summary record of the 9th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 17 October 2018, at 10 a.m.

*Chair*: Mr. Kemayah, Sr. ..... (Liberia)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 59: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations** (*continued*) (A/73/23 (chap. XIII) and A/73/64)

*Draft resolution I: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

1. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications and that a recorded vote had been requested.

2. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against*:

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3. *Draft resolution I was adopted by 143 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.*

4. **Mr. Sylvester** (United Kingdom) said that, as in previous years, the United Kingdom abstained in the vote on the draft resolution. His Government did not take issue with its main objective, which was to seek compliance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, and would continue to meet its own obligations fully in that regard in respect of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories. It believed, however, that the decision as to whether a Non-Self-Governing Territory had reached a level of self-government sufficient to relieve the administering Power of the obligation to submit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter ultimately fell to the Government of the Territory and the administering Power concerned, and not to the General Assembly.

**Agenda item 60: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories** (*continued*) (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

*Draft resolution II: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

5. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications and that a recorded vote had been requested.

6. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia,

Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against*:

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

France, Liberia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

7. *Draft resolution II was adopted by 149 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.*

8. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that the draft resolution just adopted must be considered within the framework of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), according to which the right to self-determination presupposed the existence of a people subject to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation. Consequently, self-determination was in no way applicable to the question of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, because the United Kingdom, in its illegal occupation of the Islands, had expelled the local population and replaced it with its own population. All General Assembly resolutions subsequent to resolution 2065 (XX) and all subsequent resolutions of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the issue had expressly established that the way to put an end to that special and particular colonial situation, in which sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands was disputed, was not through self-determination but rather through a negotiated settlement of the sovereignty dispute between the two parties involved: Argentina and the United Kingdom. The General Assembly itself had expressly ruled out the applicability of the principle of self-determination to the question of the Malvinas Islands in 1985, when it had rejected by a large majority two proposals by the United Kingdom seeking to incorporate that principle into a draft resolution on that specific question. Furthermore, the General Assembly, in resolution 31/49, had called upon Argentina and the United Kingdom to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation pending the completion of such negotiations. The unilateral exploration and exploitation by the United Kingdom of the natural resources in the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were contrary to that resolution and prejudged the outcome of the sovereignty dispute.

**Agenda item 61: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations** (*continued*) (A/73/23 (chap. XIII) and A/73/70)

*Draft resolution III: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

9. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications and that a recorded vote had been requested.

10. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati,

Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against*:

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

11. *Draft resolution III was adopted by 105 votes to 2, with 52 abstentions.*

12. **Mr. Sylvester** (United Kingdom) said that although his Government supported the specialized agencies and their efforts to provide assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in the humanitarian, educational and technical fields in particular, the statutes of those agencies should be carefully respected. For that reason, his delegation had abstained during the voting.

13. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that the draft resolution must be implemented in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on decolonization.

**Agenda item 62: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories** (*continued*) (A/73/73 and A/C.4/73/L.2)

*Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.2: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories*

14. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

15. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Algeria, Cuba, Ecuador, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Thailand and Vanuatu had joined the list of sponsors.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.2 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 63: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples** (*Territories not covered under other agenda items*) (*continued*) (A/73/23 (chaps. VIII, IX, X, XI, XII and XIII), A/73/70, A/73/219 and A/C.4/73/L.3)

17. **The Chair** said that none of the draft resolutions under agenda item 63 had any programme budget implications.

18. **Mr. Sylvester** (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of position before the decisions, said that his Government would join the consensus on the eight draft resolutions concerning British Overseas Territories submitted under agenda item 63 in order to demonstrate its full support for the right to self-determination, even though some of the language in the draft resolutions was unacceptable. Unfortunately, the Special Committee had failed once again to take into account the positive evolution of the relationship between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories. The latter enjoyed a large measure of internal self-government and had all freely chosen to maintain their links to the United Kingdom. The draft resolutions failed to reflect that modern relationship, which was based on partnership, shared values and the right to self-determination.

*Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.3: Question of Western Sahara*

19. **Mr. Charwath** (Austria), speaking in explanation of position before the decision on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the country of the stabilization and association process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union and its member States looked forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by

consensus. They welcomed the commitment of the Secretary-General to relaunch the negotiating process with the aim of achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter. They encouraged the parties to work within the United Nations framework and supported the meaningful participation of women and young people in the political process.

20. They stood ready to support the efforts of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and welcomed the positive response to the proposed round-table meeting, to be held in Geneva in December 2018. The parties should cooperate with the Personal Envoy to advance towards a more intensive phase of negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions, as advocated by the many Security Council resolutions.

21. The parties should also work more closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on confidence-building measures which would help improve the political climate. The Office should also, at the urging of the Security Council, continue to consider the registration of refugees in the Tindouf camps. The living conditions in those camps were deeply concerning and it was imperative that the international community should provide new and additional voluntary contributions.

22. Lastly, the consequences of the Western Sahara conflict on security and cooperation in the region continued to be of concern.

23. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea) said that his delegation fully supported the process being conducted under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to bring about a mutually acceptable, negotiated and durable political solution to the dispute on Western Sahara and welcomed the forthcoming round table, to be held in Geneva in December 2018.

24. The Moroccan autonomy initiative was a step towards finding a realistic, practical and enduring solution based on compromise. His delegation welcomed and encouraged the practical efforts and substantial investments made by Morocco to promote the development of Western Sahara, as well as measures taken to address human rights concerns.

25. Given the need for all concerned parties to be heard, his delegation was pleased to note that elected representatives from Western Sahara had participated in the Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Granada in May 2018.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.3 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution IV: Question of American Samoa* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

27. *Draft resolution IV was adopted.*

*Draft resolution V: Question of Anguilla* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

28. *Draft resolution V was adopted.*

*Draft resolution VI: Question of Bermuda* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

29. *Draft resolution VI was adopted.*

*Draft resolution VII: Question of the British Virgin Islands* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

30. *Draft resolution VII was adopted.*

*Draft resolution VIII: Question of the Cayman Islands* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

31. *Draft resolution VIII was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XI: Question of Montserrat* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

32. *Draft resolution XI was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XII: Question of New Caledonia* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

33. *Draft resolution XII was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XIII: Question of Pitcairn* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

34. *Draft resolution XIII was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XIV: Question of Saint Helena* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

35. *Draft resolution XIV was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XV: Question of Tokelau* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

36. *Draft resolution XV was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XVI: Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

37. *Draft resolution XVI was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XVII: Question of the United States Virgin Islands* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

38. *Draft resolution XVII was adopted.*

*Draft resolution XVIII: Dissemination of information on decolonization* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

39. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against*:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

France, Liberia, Togo.

40. *Draft resolution XVIII was adopted by 164 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions.*

41. **Mr. Sylvester** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution. The obligation it placed on the Secretariat to publicize decolonization issues represented an unwarranted drain on United Nations resources and was therefore unacceptable.

42. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that the draft resolution should be interpreted and implemented in accordance with the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions. The General Assembly and the Special Committee expressly referred to the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation involving a sovereignty dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. That dispute should be resolved urgently through a just, peaceful and lasting negotiated settlement that took into account the interests of the populations of the islands.

*Draft resolution XIX: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples* (A/73/23 (chap. XIII))

43. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested.

44. **Mr. Laassel** (Morocco), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the reports of the Special Committee must faithfully reflect its work. The 2018 report, however, blatantly misrepresented the deliberations of the Special Committee and its consensus decisions. For example, paragraphs 13, 16 and 112 contained biased language and had clearly been manipulated and falsified for political reasons. He invited all delegations to consult the audio and video recordings of the meetings covered by the report, as well as the corresponding documents, which were readily available and would confirm the truth of his remarks. Moreover, seven States members of the Special Committee, including one member of the Bureau, had denounced the manipulation of the report in a letter to the Chair of the Special Committee dated 20 August 2018; a second member of the Bureau had also sent a letter.

45. The reports of all United Nations bodies must be factual and faithfully record the respective deliberations and decisions. They should not be exploited or reflect any national, political or ideological position held by the drafter. The manipulation of the 2018 report called into question the credibility and rigour of the Special Committee. Morocco would therefore vote against the draft resolution.

46. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour*:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Against*:

Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Israel, Kiribati, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Ukraine.

47. *Draft resolution XIX was adopted by 105 votes to 9, with 50 abstentions.*

48. **Mr. Faruqi** (United States) said that his delegation had voted against draft resolutions I, II, III, XVIII and XIX. Nevertheless, the United States proudly supported the right to self-determination and would continue fully to uphold Article 73 of the Charter.

49. His delegation reiterated its concern that the draft resolutions placed too much weight on independence as a one-size-fits-all status option for Territories in pursuit of self-determination. As stated in the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the people of a Non-Self-Governing Territory could validly opt for free association as an alternative to independence or any other political status, including integration with the administrating State, provided that status was freely determined by the people. The United Nations must therefore not seek to influence the outcome of various decolonization processes, but rather respect the free will of the people.

50. His delegation expressed dismay at the outdated call to terminate all military activities and eliminate all military bases in Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in paragraph 14 of draft resolution XIX. The United States had a sovereign right to carry out military activities in accordance with its national security interests and it was facile to assume that such activities were harmful or incompatible with the wishes of the people.

51. With regard to draft resolution I, his delegation underscored that it was for an administering State to determine if self-governance had been achieved in one of its Territories under the terms of the Charter, and consequently whether to transmit information concerning that Territory under Article 73 *e*.

52. With regard to language concerning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, his delegation stressed that the 2030 Agenda was a non-binding document which did not create or affect rights or obligations under international law, or bind States to any financial commitments. The United States recognized the 2030 Agenda as a global framework for sustainable development that could help countries to work towards peace and prosperity, and applauded its call for sharing

of responsibility; all countries had a role to play in achieving and financing its vision. The United States strongly supported its emphasis on national responsibility and believed that each country must implement the 2030 Agenda in accordance with its own policies and priorities. In paragraph 58 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States had recognized that implementation of the Agenda must take place with respect for, and without prejudice to, the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including negotiations and could not prejudge or serve as a precedent for decisions or actions under way in other forums. For example, it did not represent a commitment to provide new market access for goods or services; and it was not an interpretation of, and did not alter in any way, any World Trade Organization agreement or decision, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

53. His delegation stressed that the statements made in the current and previous resolutions were non-binding and did not necessarily reflect international law. Any reaffirmation of prior documents contained in the resolutions applied only to those States that had affirmed them initially.

54. **Mr. Sylvester** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation continued to find some elements of the draft resolution unacceptable and had therefore voted against it once more. It nonetheless remained committed to modernizing its relationship with its Overseas Territories while fully taking into account the views of the people of those Territories.

55. **Mr. Ashby** (Australia) said that Australia had voted against the draft resolution the previous year on the basis that it could not accept paragraph 14 calling upon the administering Powers to terminate military activities and eliminate military bases. His delegation was disappointed that the language remained in the current draft resolution, but had decided to abstain in order to affirm its objection while acknowledging support for other elements of the draft resolution, as well as the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination.

56. Australia recognized the sovereign rights of Member States to defend the Territories that they administered, which was often in the interest of the peoples of those Territories. In the Pacific region alone, France, Australia and New Zealand coordinated humanitarian and disaster response using forces based in French Polynesia and New Caledonia; the same forces also combatted illegal fishing and transnational crime. His delegation therefore reiterated its call for the unacceptable language of paragraph 14 to be removed from future resolutions.

57. **Mr. Tito** (Kiribati) said that his country was not an administering Power, nor did it harbour any ill will towards its former administering Power, which had been removed peacefully. The international community must look to the future and stop politicizing and commercializing the events of the past in an attempt to gain economic or political power.

58. His delegation had voted against the draft resolution. While his Government supported all peoples in the Pacific who sought independence, it wished to ensure that they engaged in an honest and friendly dialogue guided by the spirit of humanity. The statement made by the representative of Morocco gave cause for concern, as peace would be unobtainable if the decisions of the Committee were based on manipulated reports.

59. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that visiting missions could be sent only to Territories to which the right to self-determination applied, meaning Territories where there was no dispute over sovereignty. That requirement was fully in line with General Assembly resolution 850 (IX), which had also established the requirement that any visiting mission must be approved by the General Assembly. It was also in line with the doctrine of the Special Committee, as evidenced in its regional seminars and declarations that visiting missions must be sent on a case-by-case basis and carried out in compliance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

60. **Ms. Pedros Carretero** (Spain) said that although Spain fully supported the right to self-determination, it was not the only principle relevant to decolonization. In cases involving a sovereignty dispute such as Gibraltar, the principle of territorial integrity applied, and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), paragraph 6, and General Assembly resolution 2353 (XXII) should be taken into account. Visiting missions could be dispatched only to Territories where the right to self-determination was at stake and only with General Assembly approval, which was indeed the practice followed by the Special Committee.

61. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic), thanking the States that had voted in favour of the draft resolution, said that its adoption by a majority vote demonstrated the confidence that Member States placed in the Rapporteur of the Special Committee with regard to the preparation of the report. Furthermore, it was a fundamental pillar of the Committee's work that no State or group of States should exert pressure on the Rapporteur for political purposes. Such action directly contravened the decisions of the General Assembly and was completely unacceptable.

62. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea) that his country was a strong supporter of decolonization and had been an integral part of the Special Committee since achieving independence. Regretfully, however, his delegation had voted against the draft resolution for the reasons provided by the representative of Morocco. Having served as the Rapporteur of the Pacific regional seminar of the Special Committee in May 2018, Papua New Guinea had expressed serious concerns over the inconsistencies and errors reflected in several paragraphs of the draft report of the Special Committee. Unfortunately, those errors had not been corrected.

*Statements made in exercise of the right of reply*

63. **Mr. Sylvester** (United Kingdom), speaking in response to the statement made by the representative of Argentina, said that his Government had no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas of both Territories, nor about the Falkland Islanders' right to self-determination, as that principle was enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in article 1 of the two International Covenants on human rights, by virtue of which they freely determined their political status and freely pursued their economic, social and cultural development. His Government's relationship with the Falkland Islands, as with all of its Overseas Territories, was a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of the people of each Territory to determine their own future. The Republic of Argentina continued to deny that such fundamental human rights applied to the people of the Falkland Islands, and also to act in ways that went against the principles of the Charter.

64. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina), speaking in response to the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom, said that his delegation reiterated the statements made by the President of Argentina to the General Assembly and by the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship to the Special Committee in 2018. The Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were an integral part of Argentine national territory. The Islands had been illegally occupied by the United Kingdom and were therefore the subject of a sovereignty dispute that was recognized by a number of international organizations and by successive General Assembly resolutions calling on the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute as soon as possible. That position had also repeatedly been endorsed by the Special Committee and the Organization of American States. The principle of self-determination, which the United Kingdom used as the basis for its refusal to resume negotiations on sovereignty, was inapplicable to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as affirmed by the General Assembly and the Special Committee. The interests of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands were moreover adequately addressed by General Assembly resolutions and the Argentine Constitution. Lastly, Argentina reiterated its legitimate sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which formed an integral part of its national territory.

*The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.*